

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 2 and 8-10 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1 and 8-10 are in independent form.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004-0001107 (Russon) in view of U.S. Patent 5,953,008 (Hagiuda).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing method comprising the steps of indicating an arbitrary position on a map representing a color space, and determining an image processing parameter by moving a thumbnail image displayed on the map representing the color space to the indicated arbitrary position on the map. An image process, corresponding to the arbitrary position to which the thumbnail image has been moved, is performed on the thumbnail image on the map representing the color space, and the thumbnail image which has been subjected to the image process, is displayed at the position after the movement. According to Claim 1, an image process corresponding to the arbitrary position to which the thumbnail image has been moved is reflected in the thumbnail image which was moved.

Thus, among other notable features of the method of Claim 1, the thumbnail image displayed on the map representing the color space is moved to the arbitrary position on the map, and the image process corresponding to the arbitrary position to which the thumbnail image has been moved is reflected in the thumbnail image which was moved. Thus, the image processing result at the indicated position on the color space can be easily found from the thumbnail images to which the image process corresponding to the indicated position on the color space. Moreover, according to the method of Claim 1, by

indicating not only the positions on the periphery of the thumbnail images but also the arbitrary image on the map representing the color space, a desired color on the color space map can be instantaneously selected, whereby it is possible to execute the effective color adjustment process.

Russon relates to a system which selects an image from a folder and sequentially displays the thumbnail images obtained by performing the image process on the selected image. *Hagiuda* relates to a source file editing apparatus in which the source file is displayed as thumbnails, and the displayed thumbnails are processed to perform various link-editing.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in *Russon* that would teach or suggest a map representing a color space, and thus of course does not disclose or suggest that a thumbnail image displayed on a map representing a color space should be moved to an arbitrary position on the map of displaying the color space. Likewise, Applicants submit that nothing found or pointed out in *Hagiuda* would teach or suggest a map representing a color space, and thus also cannot teach or suggest that a thumbnail image displayed on a map representing a color space should be moved to an arbitrary position on the map of displaying the color space. Even if these documents are combined in the proposed manner, therefore, and even if that combination be assumed to be a proper one, the result would not meet the terms of Claim 1.

Independent Claims 8-10 are apparatus, computer memory medium and program claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as

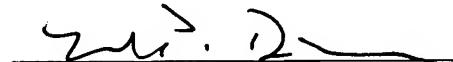
references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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